World Campaign for Human Rights

Human Rights Newsletter

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World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993

The World Conference on Human Rights will be held in 1993 for a period of two weeks. The decision of convening a World Conference on Human Rights was taken by the General Assembly in 1990, after ascertaining the agreement of Governments, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies acting in the field of human rights and non-governmental organizations on the need for discussing at a high level the most important questions related to the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Preparatory Committee held its first session from 9 to 13 September 1991 at the Palais des Nations (United Nations), Geneva, and was attended by representatives of Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, liberation movements and non-governmental organizations.

The objectives of the World Conference will be: to review and assess, at a high level, progress in human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration; to identify obstacles and ways in which they might be overcome; to examine the relationship between development and the enjoyment by everyone of economic social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights; to examine ways to improve the implementation of human rights standards and instruments; to evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and mechanisms used by the United Nations; and to make concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of United Nations activities and mechanisms and for the resources needed to that end.

Jonathan Motzfeldt, Member of Parliament and former Premier of Greenland, chairs the United Nations Meeting of Experts held in Nuuk (see article on page 4).

In his opening statement to the preparatory committee, Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference, stated that "some years ago, we entered a new era in international affairs. The clouds of confrontation receded and we bore witness to an encouraging return to multilateralism and to the ideals of the founders of the Organization. On the international scene confrontation seemed to give way to co-operation: and this development was also visible in the field of Human Rights. (...)

I thus suggested to the General Assembly in October 1989 the holding of a World Conference on Human Rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with those crucial issues. In my view, such a Conference would be a focal point for common reflections and might be a way to better prepare ourselves for the challenges of the coming Century." Mr. Martenson also stated that in striving for these objectives three important elements can be expected from the World Conference process. In the words of Mr. Martenson, "first, we should by mobilizing the energy and efforts of all human rights organs and bodies as well as non-

governmental organizations and individuals, unequivocally reaffirm and safeguard the international standards adopted and proclamed by the United Nations. These high standards belong to humanity's common heritage and we should pass them on strengthened to coming generations. Concretely, we can act to uphold existing norms and ensure that new proposed standards are really necessary and do not endanger those already existing by confusing, overlapping or a lowering of requirements.

Second, and here we can turn to the concerns of the founders of our Organization, we must ensure the universal application of United Nations standards; no individual should be excluded from the protection of United Nations human rights norms. Can we not already set as our objective the universal ratification of basic human rights treaties before 1993 and seek ways of bringing that about? We could open a sustained dialogue with those States not having ratified our basic instruments to encourage ratifications, identify obstacles and help overcome them. Prompt and careful consideration will be given to requests for assistance in overcoming obstacles to ratifications under the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme.

An important element in assuring universality of human rights is the elimination of discrimination and, in particular, racial discrimination. This should indeed be present in our activities and thinking relating to the World Conference.

Thirdly, we should aim at the full implementation of human rights in the lives of people throughout the world by effective national and international action. In fact, one question should be the keystone of all our efforts – do they enhance the quality of life and improve the way people live? The Universal Declaration has branched out like a mighty tree into some 70 covenants, conventions and other international instruments. But without implementation, without realizing these noble undertakings as living reality for men, women and children all over the world, these branches are reduced to dead wood."

The convening of the World Conference was part of a larger process of reaffirmation and strengthening of human rights. Three important elements could be expected from the World Conference process: the reaffirmation of international standards, the universal application of United Nations norms, and improved implementation.

The Preparatory Committee is open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers. During the first session, Halima Warzazi, Director, International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, was elected Chairperson. The committee also elected Ambassadors Horacio Arteaga, John Swift and Fan Guoxiang, Permanent Representatives of Venezuela, Ireland and China respectively, to the United Nations Office at Geneva, as Vice-Chairmen. Zdzistaw Kedzia, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations Office at Geneva was elected Rapporteur.

Among the decisions taken by the preparatory Committee were the following:

● To propose that the provisional agenda and the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference, as well as related documentation, be taken up by the Committee at its second session;

● To recommend that it meet for three further sessions in Geneva, twice in 1992 and once in 1993, the next session to last two weeks and the two other sessions one to two weeks each, if this was agreed to be necessary;

● To recommend to the General Assembly to reiterate its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries in the preparatory meetings and in the Conference itself; and

● To recommend that regional meetings be convened for each region that so desired, within the institutional fromework or with the assistance of the regional commissions, and that these meetings be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference.

For information, contact: The Secretariat of the World Conference on Human Rights, Centre for Human Rights.

Human Rights Meetings and Recent Developments

● *NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR APPLICATION (17 to 19 June 1991, Brasilia, Brazil)*–Organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Government of Brazil, the objective was twofold: to inform government representatives from 27 provinces and heads of military and police departments on the basic aspects of human rights as contained in the international human rights instruments and their mechanisms, and to inform government officials on how best to ensure that Brazil's treaty obligations were fulfilled at the national and international levels.

Over 100 participants attended the course which was opened by Jarbas Passarinho, Minister of Justice of Brazil. Subjects included: the application at the national level of the international human rights standards as enshrined in the two International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, as well as in the Optional Protocol to the latter; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and other international principles and declarations related to the administration of justice and human rights. Among the major concerns specifically addressed by the participants were the problem of street children and the violation of their rights, and the right to development, in particular how feasible it was to promote and protect human rights in a country where economic and social problems were far from being solved.

At the request of the provincial authorities present, it was agreed that similar briefings should be held at the local level as soon as possible. Provinces could be grouped by regions

and the United Nations would be requested to sponsor these events. In the view of the participants, the observance of human rights depended on the dissemination of information about human rights in order to build public awareness. In this respect, the Centre for Human Rights agreed to assist with the organization of future briefings and to provide Brazil with the necessary documentation to facilitate this process.

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights addressed participants during the closing ceremony.

● *NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS MECHANISMS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (25 to 28 June 1991, Caracas, Venezuela)*–Organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Government of Venezuela, the course served to train 80 Government officials, judges and prosecutors in international and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms, as well as how best to ensure that Venezuela's treaty obligations were fulfilled at the national and international levels. Particular attention was directed to the application of international human rights standards in domestic cases and of the international norms, as contained in international humanitarian law, in situations of internal strife. Both the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Attorney-General of Venezuela, Mr. Antonio José Herrera, spoke at the opening ceremony.

The course is part of an education and training project of the Centre's Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme. During the course, participants expressed particular interest in the administration of justice, the rights of detainees, jail and detention centre conditions, and the applicability of international human rights norms to human rights questions at the national level.

The Centre for Human Rights was urged to provide the paricipants with all possible human rights documentation and to organize local training courses for judges and prosecutors.

● *AFRICAN WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (8 to 12 July 1991, Cairo, Egypt)*–Organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity's Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and with the support of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the workshop was attended by over 100 participants from some 38 African countries. The meeting was opened by Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Boutros B. Ghali.

Following an opening address by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, 20 experts from various international human rights bodies, the African Commission, academia and the legal profession presented topical issues in the fields of human rights and the administration of justice, followed by lively audience participation. Participants agreed that while African countries did their best to promote international human rights standards and to administer justice based upon such standards, there was a long way to go before they were fully repected. Some speakers criticized the practice of administrative detention in African countries, the lack of access to courts and the absence of legal aid, or the length of judicial proceedings. Others felt that a human rights-conscious administration of justice was frequently hampered by financial constraints. Most participants noted that African administrators of justice were not sufficiently aware of international human rights standards and suggested that it would be desirable to make available United Nations assistance to train magistrates, prison administrators and police trainees. The Centre for Human Rights expressed support for the preparation of such national education and training programmes.

● *SEMINAR FOR JUDGES IN ROMANIA ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS AND THE JUDICIARY (23 to 25 September 1991, Bucharest, Romania)*–At the request of the Supreme Court of Justice and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for Human Rights organized a seminar for judges of the Supreme Court of Justice of Romania. It was a follow-up to an earlier United Nations mission of human rights experts to provide advice to the Parliamentary Commission in charge of drafting a new constitution.

Following opening statements by the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, Teofil Pop, and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, some 100 judges heard presentations by experts from United Nations human rights treaty bodies, university professors and staff members of the Centre for Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation's Freedom of Association Branch and judges of the Supreme Court of Romania on the following topics: the independence of the judiciary; the role of judges in a democratic society; the integration of international norms relating to human rights into domestic law; norms relating to fair trial, habeas corpus, arrest and detention of persons; prohibition of torture; the rights of the child; minority rights; the right to privacy, the right to marriage and freedom of movement; equality before the law and prohibition of racial discrimination; and trade union rights. The judges were provided with relevant human rights documentation published by the United Nations.

In concluding the discussions, the President of the Supreme Court of Justice welcomed the holding of the seminar and its discussions and declared that the judiciary in Romania was, and should remain, independent and suggested that future seminars be organized to train other judges in Romania.

On 26 September, following this event, the Centre for Human Rights organized, in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre/Bucharest and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a briefing for Romanian non-governmental organizations and lawyers. Some 40 organizations concerned with a broad range of matters including the human rights of women and children; trade union rights; the rights of the handicapped; the right to health; and peace and humanitarian questions, were represented.

The aim of the briefing was to present and discuss the international human rights conventions that have been ratified by Romania and other existing international norms. There was general agreement by those attending that there should be a regular exchange of information among themselves and with the Centre.

● *WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS (26 to 30 August 1991, Moscow, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)*–Organized by the

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The newly elected Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities Louis Joinet (centre), chairs the forty-third session on the Sub-Commission (see article on page 5).

Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and with the support of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the workshop was attended by some 40 persons including representatives of non-governmental organizations and officials from the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, the Interior, and Education.

Following an opening address by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and a statement made by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, experts from various United Nations human rights bodies spoke on topical issues with regard to international human rights instruments and reporting obligations by States parties to international human rights conventions.

During the discussions, the Chairman of the Supreme Arbitrary Court of the Soviet Union and former Minister of Justice, Mr. Yakovlev, pointed out that the judiciary in his country had not yet reached full independence and that this fundamental task had to be undertaken during the process of "perestroika" and "glasnost". Aside from the strengthening of the judiciary, the creation of effective mechanisms for the protection of human rights in the Soviet Union as well as in the sovereign republics constituted a priority. The establishment of the Supreme Arbitrary Court of the Soviet Union dealing with economic and social rights in the context of the legal recognition of private ownership constituted a further fundamental development. It was the first example in the history of the Soviet Union where judges were appointed for life. In the future, he said, the Supreme Arbitrary Court was to play a role similar to that of the European Court of Justice in so far as it dealt with anti-monopoly legislation or protection of private property.

● *UNITED NATIONS MEETING OF EXPERTS (24 to 28 September 1991, Nuuk, Greenland)*–A meeting of experts to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous peoples was organized by the Centre for Human Rights at the invitation of the Home Rule Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark. As part of a plan of activities carried out during the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the meeting was designed to contribute to a better understanding of existing institutions and practices aimed at eliminating discrimination against indigenous peoples. Among the topics were: the scope and effective exercise of internal autonomy and self-government; fiscal and administrative relations between indigenous governments and States; and effective means of planning for and implementing autonomy, including negotiated constitutional arrangements and involving both territorial and personal autonomy.

In their list of recommendations, the participants called for enlarging the Centre for Human Rights' advisory services and technical assistance programme to include training for indigenous peoples and autonomous and self-governmental institutions. It also called upon the Commission on Human Rights to consider the possibility of establishing international monitoring mechanisms to deal with indigenous peoples.

The report, recommendations and working papers of this meeting will be submitted to the next session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1992.

Some 50 persons attended the meeting, including representatives from more than a dozen indigenous organizations and countries such as Australia, Canada, Chile, The Gambia, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Denmark and Finland. Opening statements were made by Lars Emil Johansen, Premier of Greenland, and Hans Engell, Minister of Justice of Denmark.

● *International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (7 to 9 October 1991, Paris, France)*–Organized by the Centre for Human Rights at the invitation of the Government of France in cooperation with the Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme to examine forms of cooperation between the various national institutions and international organizations such as the United Nations. The seminar was attended by some 80 representatives worldwide, including national and regional human rights institutions, ombudsman, human rights experts, training centres and non-governmental organizations. An opening statement was made by the Prime Minister of France, Mrs. Edith Cresson, the President of the Commission National des Droits de l'Homme, Paul Bouchet, and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Jan Martenson. Roland Dumas, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, closed the session.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of France, Mrs. Edith Cresson expressed firm belief in the importance of national human rights institutions and their growth and development worldwide. The Prime Minister also pledged that her country would do everything possible to ensure that the recommendations of this meeting be given special con-

sideration at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

In addition to exchanging views on national and regional human rights institutions, the participants, in view of the need to develop and encourage the creation of national institutions, drew up a series of recommendations for Governments to take into consideration their role, composition, status and functioning. These recommendations will be submitted to the next (forty-eighth) session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights scheduled to take place from 27 January to 6 March 1992, with the recommendation that they then be transmitted to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights.

It was also suggested that the United Nations Centre for Human Rights should conduct a comparative study on national institutions in view of preparing a handbood on this subject.

A follow-up meeting to this seminar is planned for 1993 following the World Conference on Human Rights.

For further information concerning all of the above, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

Sub-Commission Holds Forty-Third Session

Establishing an intersessional working group on its methods of work, examining the human rights situation in several countries and regions, and adopting a final report on human rights and disability were among the wide range of issues under discussion at the forty-third session of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Meeting at the Palais des Nations (United Nations), Geneva, Switzerland, from 5 to 30 August 1991, the 26 members also acted on a wide range of issues relating to the elimination of racial discrimination and apartheid, indigenous rights, the administration of justice, the independence of the judiciary, the situation of minorities and the elimination of religious intolerance.

The Sub-Commission is the principal subsidiary body of the Commission on Human Rights. It was established to undertake studies and make recommendations to the Commission on the prevention of discrimination and the protection of racial, religious and linguistic minorities.

Following the opening of the session by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, the newly elected President of the Sub-Commission, Louis Joinet of France, stressed the importance of the Sub-Commission's independent character. The Commission's decision to allow the Sub-Commission to vote on resolutions pertaining to alleged human rights violations by secret ballot, had also contributed to the Sub-Commission's enhanced independence.

INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

In an effort to better define its work based on the changing situation of human rights worldwide, it was decided that an intersessional working group on the methods of work of the Sub-Commission would be established, on an exceptional basis, in 1992. The working group will elaborate proposals for the rationalization of the work and agenda of the Sub-Commission, in particular with regard to: preparation and submission of working documents, studies and reports; submission and adoption of resolutions; structure of the agenda; methods and means of dealing with violations of human rights; and the role of alternates.

The working group will meet prior to the forty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission and submit its proposals at that session.

SITUATIONS

Parallel to the consideration by the Commission on Human Rights of the human rights situation in various countries and territories, the Sub-Commission also drew attention to that of Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, South Africa, the situation in Palestine and other Arab territories occupied by Israel, as well as that of Tibet.

WORKING GROUPS

Each year, three working groups meet just prior to the session of the Sub-Commission in time to present their reports at that session:

● *WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS* (22 July to 2 August)–This two-week meeting annually provides a unique opportunity for non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples worldwide to participate in the five-member Working Group's deliberations thanks to a special voluntary fund set up in 1985 to cover travel expenses. This year, the Fund enabled 31 people representing 28 indigenous organizations from 19 countries, to attend the Working Group's meetings. In all, nearly 500 people were present, including representatives of 24 observer Governments, 10 indigenous peoples' organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, 72 indigenous nations, 17 non-governmental organizations, and 88 distinguished experts, scholars, students and other concerned individuals.

The major objective of each session is twofold: to review the developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and the evolution of standards concerning the rights of such peoples. During this session, the Working Group submitted the revised text of the preamble and 18 operative paragraphs of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental orgnanizations and indigneous peoples' organizations requesting their ad hoc comments, amendments and suggestions. At the next meeting of the working group, the first reading of the text will continue.

The Working Group also recommended that the United Nations General Assembly designate a coordinator for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993) and that the opening ceremonies for the Year be held at the General Assembly in New York on or about 12 October 1992.

● *WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS* (22 July to 2 August)–Each year, this five-member working group meets to consider all communications received by the Sub-Commission, including replies of Governments, with a view to bringing

to the attention of the Sub-Commission those communications which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In its report, the Working Group informed the Sub-Commission that it had had before it a number of extensively documented communications about alleged gross violations of the human rights of thousands of prisoners of war and civilian internees detained in military prisons and detention camps during the Second World War. United Nations intercession was being sought to obtain compensation for the surviving victims or the next of kin of those who died in captivity or subsequent to their release, on account of the ill-treatment, torture and forced labour allegedly inflicted or imposed on them during the time of detention. The Working Group was of the view that, appalling as the events complained of were, the procedure governed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) could not be applied as a reparation or relief mechanism in respect of claims of compensation for human suffering or other losses which occurred during the Second World War. The Sub-Commission decided to concur with that interpretation of the procedure.

● *WORKING GROUP ON SLAVERY* (29 July to 2 August)– This session of the five-member Working Group was mainly devoted to the prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others. It was the last topic in a series of three under discussion since 1989. Former themes included the prevention of the sale of children, of child prostitution and of child pornography (1989) and the eradication of the exploitation of child labour and of debt bondage (1990).

In its report to the Sub-Commission the Working Group stressed that the main cause of contemporary forms of slavery is poverty and that the phenomena of traffic of persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others were closely linked to social and economic development. An Economic and Social Council resolution to create a United Nations voluntary trust fund on contempory forms of slavery would constitute a significant development for the protection of victims of this practice.

Members of the Working Group learned that, as of 1 May 1991, 105 States had ratified the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery and 61 States had ratified the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. In order to improve the implementation procedure of the slavery conventions, it was suggested that a broader mandate be given to the bodies entrusted with their implementation. New machinery could be established by a new convention on slavery by revising the existing conventions or by adopting an additional protocol to the convention in force.

Among the Working Group's resolutions were two programmes of action which were submitted to and endorsed by the Sub-Commission: a draft programme of action for the prevention of traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and a reformulation of a programme of action for the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

The next session of the Working Group will be devoted to a review of the last three years.

FINAL REPORTS, NEW STUDIES AND SUBJECTS

One of the highlights of this session of the Sub-Commission was the adoption of the final report by Leandro Despouy, Special Rapporteur and expert from Argentina, on human rights and disability. The question of human rights and disability has been on the Sub-Commission's agenda since 1984 when it appointed Mr. Despouy to undertake a comprehensive study in this field. The discussion of the report in the plenary was interpreted for the hearing impaired. The report will now go before the Commission on Human Rights at its next session and on to ECOSOC for its approval. It deals with legal issues regarding disabled persons; factors causing disability; prejudices, discrimination and other human rights violations to which disabled persons are subject; national and international policies and public information and education. The report, which also discusses the specific problems of disabled women, indigenous populations, immigrant workers and refugees as well as of disabled persons in developing countries, summarizes the replies sent by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to a questionnaire on their experiences.

The Sub-Commission also had before it a working paper on the ownership and control of the cultural property of indigenous peoples, prepared by Erica-Irene Daes, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. It decided to entrust Ms. Daes with the further task of preparing, for submission at its forty-fifth session in 1993, a study of measures which should be taken up by the international community to strengthen respect for the cultural property of indigenous peoples.

During the session, a new subject– forced evictions–was added to the Sub-Commission's agenda. It was the first time that this issue was discussed and it was decided that it would be

Human Rights and Disability

A *Free Human Rights* concert was organized in Geneva, Switzerland on 6 August 1991 in time for the Sub-Commission's discussions of the final report by the Special Rapporteur, Leandro Despouy, on human rights and disability. Some 1,200 to 1,500 persons attended the jazz concert featuring Chic Street Man, which was also interpreted for the hearing impaired.

The concert was organized by the United Nations Socio-Cultural Commission in connection with the Rehab Hope Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to co-creating rehabilitative opportunities worldwide for persons who are victims of serious or traumatic functional disabilities.

A special briefing, open to the general public, was held on 15 August to discuss the issues raised by the Special Rapporteur. Five disabled persons spoke, identifying specific problems in connection with discrimination in employment and housing and to emphasize that disabled people had the same needs as others.

reviewed at its next session in 1992 as it consituted a gross and consistent pattern of human rights violations affecting large numbers of people.

JOINT MEETING WITH CERD

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Sub-Commission at its session in 1990, a joint meeting was organized on 19 August 1991 between Sub-Commission members and those of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). This meeting was the first of its kind. The following items were identified for future joint action: measures to combat racism and racial discrimination and the role of the Sub-Commission; adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist regime of South Africa; the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; discrimination against indigenous peoples; and the protection of minorities.

One expert from each body was designated to maintain contacts and to keep his/her respective constituency informed of the other's activities. It was agreed that concrete recommendations for collaboration would be made.

For further information, contact: Legislation and Prevention of Discrimination Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

CERD Holds Fortieth Session

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held its fortieth session from 5 to 23 August 1991 in Geneva, Switzerland. The 18-member body monitors the compliance of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It also examines, in closed session, communications from individuals claiming to be victims of racial discrimination provided that the States concerned have recognized the Committee's competence in this regard.

Since the Committee's session coincided with that of the Sub-Commission, a meeting, the first of its kind, between the two bodies was able to take place to discuss issues of common interest and possible cooperation (see also article on the Sub-Commission).

During its three-week meeting, the Committee reviewed the reports of Australia, Bulgaria, Iraq, Israel, Mexico and the Syrian Arab Republic. It also reviewed implementation of the Convention by 11 States parties which were seriously in arrears in submitting periodic reports.

States parties to the Convention agree to condemn and seek to eliminate racial discrimination in their territories, review their policies in order to amend or nullify any regulations which create or perpetuate such discrimination, and to prohibit organizations and activities which promote or incite racial discrimination. Racial discrimination, as defined in Article 1 of the Convention, includes discrimination based on race, colour, or national or ethnic origin. At this session, the Committee for the first time adopted by consensus concluding observations on the implementation of the Convention by each reporting State about the situation in the Occupied Territories. Reports from Ghana, Greece, Ecuador and Costa Rica will be examined at the next session, planned for 2 to 20 March 1992.

For further information, contact: International Instruments Section, Centre for Human Rights.

(Editor's note: Fact Sheet No. 12 on the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is now available from the External Relations Section, Centre for Human Rights).

Seminar of Latin American experts on "Human Rights, Democracy, Economic and Social Development"

Santiago de Chile, 10-13 December 1991

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Government of Chile, organized a Latin American Seminar on "Human Rights, Democracy, Economic and Social Development", in Santiago de Chile (Chile). The Seminar was opened on 10 December by the Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. John Pace, the Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, and the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile, Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreño. Experts from Latin America as well as some 30 international and local NGOs participated in the event.

The meeting offered the opportunity to further explore the relation between human rights, democracy and development. Experts from 10 Latin American countries, Mr. Colin Bradford (OECD-Development Centre) and Mr. Osvaldo Sunkel (ECLAC adviser), and a special guest, Mgr. Helder Camara from Pernabuco (Brazil), discussed relevant issues on the above-mentioned subject. Governments from the region also sent their representatives to take part in the event.

The main issues discussed relate to the following subjects: Rights to democracy and the international defence of democracy; Main obstacles which stand in the way of democracy, human rights, economic and social development in Latin America; National policies for the promotion and protection of human rights and the role of international technical cooperation. A full-day round table took place on 13 December to examine how broad concepts could be translated into practical action and a final statement was adopted unanimously. The interventions and proceedings of the Seminar will be published by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

The opening statements reflected the interest of the international community as well as the Government of Chile in the subject of democratization and human rights in the context of development. In particular, Mr. Pace underlined, *inter alia*, that "if fundamental human rights are not

respected, it will be difficult to have or promote development during a long period of time and democracy will only be an empty promise". Mr. Vargas Carreño stated that "democracy is a human right due to an interdependent relation between the two concepts". He also added that "democracy not only constitutes a fundamental element for the effectiveness of human rights inside a nation, but it is also the core expression of contemporary international law: the right to self determination of people".

During the discussion concerning democracy and its international defence, Mr. Garretón (Chile) said that "the expansion of democracy will not bring automatic solutions to the problems of violence and underdevelopment, but without democracy it is clear that these problems will not find a solution". Many interventions focused mainly on the problems faced by those democracies established after periods of authoritarian rule and violations of human rights. Mr. Bernales Ballesteros, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights in 1991, focused his attention on the necessity of identifying priorities in the democratization process. He also added that the democratization process in Latin America is taking place during a severe period of economic crisis, and that "once constitutional legality has been restored governments find themselves faced with a critical alternative: protect formal democracy or accept the application of structural adjustment policies which alone provoke brutal inequality in the social cost sharing". An important remark about the need to include plans for compensating the social cost of adjustment was added.

The intervention of Mgr. Helder Camara, stimulated the debate about the effect that extreme poverty has on the democratic process. It was noted that in poverty conditions a minimum chance for life exists, while in conditions of extreme poverty, not even this minimum chance exists. Mgr. Camara stressed that the situation of extreme poverty is an offence to the dignity of the person.

The participation of two economists in the seminar provided the opportunity to discuss important factors necessary in the transition to democracy and the respect of human rights. In particular, Mr. Bradford (OECD-Development Centre) made a presentation on the policy and practice of DAC donor countries regarding the interrelationship between human rights, democracy and development. He also provoked an interesting debate about the necessity of identifying priorities for the respect of human rights and the democratization process, taking into account the economic and financial possibilities of each country. The extensive debate also tackled other issues, such as the analysis of the necessary balance between centralization and decentralization in decision making and the participatory element in this process. Mr. Sunkel (ECLAC adviser) focused his intervention on the necessity of identifying the priority of each country during the democratic adjustment. He added that this is necessary due to the scarcity of resources presently available in the world. He also suggested that the administration of justice should be regarded as a service, similar to transportation, health and other services. In this way, it would be an important indicator of the development of the democratic process.

The final statement was adopted unanimously by the participants and the representatives of the governments. It contains important elements which will be fundamental in the elaboration of future programmes and projects of technical cooperation in the field of human rights in the region. For example, the improvement of electoral systems, which will better represent society, as well as open and efficient legal systems were considered as fundamental elements of democracy and the respect of human rights.

The seminar also contributed to stimulate interest about the 1993 World Conference and its regional preparatory meetings.

New Human Rights Stamp Series

On 20 November 1991, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued the third set of stamps in its multiyear series commemorating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Launched on 17 November 1989, the Human Rights stamp series is one of the important projects undertaken by the UNPA.

As part of the United Nations World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, this series will reproduce chronologically, over a five-year period, the entire text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To do justice to this text, UNPA has worked with major museums and art historians around the world to choose an important work of art to accompany each of the thirty articles of the Declaration. With this third instalment, 18 of the 30 articles will have been represented.

This year's set of six stamps will feature articles 13 through 18 of the Declaration. Because the articles are issued chronologically, collectors wishing to obtain the entire 30 articles of the Declaration need to purchase the six values (30 cent, 50 cent, FS .50, FS .90, S 4.50 and S 7) issued each year for five years.

For further information contact: UN Postal Administration, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland or United Nations offices in Vienna, Austria or New York, NY, USA.

Forty-two Fellows Selected for UN Summer Programme

Forty-two countries were selected to attend the annual fellowship programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights held from 1 July to 2 August 1991. It was the largest number of fellows attending the course since the programme was restructured in 1988. Due to the growing interest of Governments in the programme, applications have tripled over the last three years, thus making the selection procedure extremely competitive.

The programme has proved to be extremely useful since the candidates, who came from many different countries, are actively involved in human rights questions at home, particularly within the ministries of foreign affairs, justice and education. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights may consider expanding this programme in order to accommodate the growing number of requests.

Each year, fellows meet for one week in Geneva for a series of briefings on the structure and methods of work of the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations system

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rtikel 17 (1) Jeder Mensch hat allein oder in Gemeinschaft mit anderen Recht auf Eigentum.
(2) Niemand darf willkürlich seines Eigentums beraubt werden.
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rticle 17 (1)Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.
Menschenrechte
VEREINTE NATIONEN $4.50
rticle 17 1) Toute personne, aussi bien seule qu'en collectivité, a droit à la propriété.
2) Nul ne peut être arbitrairement privé de sa propriété.

under the Charter, and the mandates of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Three weeks are then spent at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. During the 1991 session, fellows attended courses from 8 to 26 July on such subjects as: the rights of parents and children; international humanitarian law; equality of the sexes; rights of the aged; the death penalty; the European human rights protection system; torture; forced or involuntary disappearances; and the inter-American human rights protection system.

Upon returning to Geneva, a final week of briefings was conducted from 29 July to 2 August on the work of such organizations as the International Labour Organisation, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Fellows also attended meetings of the Sub-Commission's working groups on 30 and 31 July.

As is the custom at the end of each programme, fellows were called upon to present an oral evaluation of the programme. A comprehensive final report is also submitted to the Centre for Human Rights on subjects directly related to the promotion and protection of human rights as defined in the International Covenants of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and resolutions of the United Nations regarding universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Holds its First two Sessions

The first session of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group on Arbitrary Detention was held from 16 to 20 September 1991 at the Palais des Nations (United Nations), Geneva, Switzerland. The Working Group is the most recent addition to a series of mechanisms designed to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty. The other existing mechanisms are the mandates of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on Summary or Arbitrary Executions, and the Special Rapporteur on the Question of Torture. All four report to the Commission on Human Rights.

The major task of the Working Group's five experts, serving in their personal capacity, will be to investigate cases of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with the relevant international standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or in the relevant international legal instruments accepted by the States concerned.

METHODS OF WORK

Following the election of Louis Joinet (France) as Chairman-Rapporteur and Roberto Garretón (Chile) as Vice-Chairman, this first session was devoted to examining the scope of the Working Group's mandate and methods of work. Given the related nature of, and complementarity between, the four above-mentioned mandates, it was suggested that the Working Group draw upon the experience acquired by the other three mandates, and in particular the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearences, then adopt working methods which appeared to be most appropriate for its specific tasks.

At the end of its first session the Working Group adopted provisional methods of work as well as provisional criteria for assessing the arbitrary character of cases submitted to it. The Working Group decided to continue discussing its methods of work and criteria during future sessions, in the light of the experience it would gain in the discharge of its mandate. In the framework of the provisional criteria adopted by the Working Group it decided to consider cases in which the deprivation of freedom is manifestly arbitrary; cases in which persons are detained for having exercised certain basic rights and freedoms protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, such as freedom of opinion, and cases in which international provisions related to the right to fair trial have been grossly violated. The Group also adopted the text of a model questionnaire to be filled out by persons alleging arbitrary arrest or detention. Finally, the Working Group also decided to transmit a certain number of cases to Governments.

NEW CONCEPT

A major feature of the Working Group's mandate is that it is required to *investigate* cases–a totally new concept, since similar mechanisms in the past have only been given mandates *to examine* certain questions or phenomena.

In applying what is referred to as the *adversary* approach, the Working Group will consider both sides to each case–that of the complainant and that of the Government in question.

At its second session, from 16 to 20 December 1991, the Working Group continued its deliberations on its methods of work and considered the replies received from a certain number of Governments on cases of alleged arbitrary detention. A report has been prepared in order to be presented to the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

For further information, contact: Special Procedures Section, Centre for Human Rights.

Human Rights Day 10 December 1991

A series of events were organized at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 10 December 1991 to celebrate Human Rights Day. The forty-third anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights coincided with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information organized a commemorative ceremony on "The Human Rights Covenants and the Optional Protocol 25 years later", as well as an exhibit of lithographs depicting the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A piano recital was given by the Argentinean pianist Nelson Goerner on 9 December.

New Human Rights Videos and Guides

As part of an ongoing education series within the framework of the United Nations World Information Campaign for Human Rights, the United Nations Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, has produced a new set of education videos and teaching guides. Entitled, *About the United Nations: Human Rights–The Rights of the Child*, the materials are available in English, French and Spanish, and have been produced well in time for Human Rights Day, observed annually on 10 December.

Materials consist of reading and classroom examples of various aspects of human rights, with special emphasis on the rights of the child. Particularly suited for upper primary and secondary school students, the teaching guides include simple stories, case studies and interviews for introducing students to issues of international concern. The videos, like the guides, explore the issues, illustrate how the United Nations is handling them and finally examine how people at the grassroots level are responding.

Although the videos and teaching guide are intended to be used as a package, each may be used independently. Price: video and guide–US$ 29.95; video–US$25.00; teaching guide–US $9.95. *For further information, contact:* United Nations Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, NY; or the nearest United Nations Information Centre or Service.

The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) maintains 105 regional libraries in its information centres and United Nations Development Programme offices throughout the world, serviced from United Nations Headquarters in New York. These regional libraries offer a wide selection of films for loan to broadcasters, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and clubs.

One of the most recent materials prepared by DPI is a seven-minute animated film on the subject of prejudice and the elimination of all forms of discrimination. Schools and governmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to promote this feature worldwide.

To obtain the film in 16mm print or videocassette form (English, French or Spanish), contact: United Nations Department of Public Information, Dissemination Division, Promotion and Distribution Unit (Audio Visual), Room S-0845, New York, NY, 10017, USA.

Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was set up by the General Assembly in 1981 to receive voluntary contributions and to help provide needed aid in response to the many applications for grants submitted by institutions, organizations and groups which have projects aiding torture victims and their families.

The Fund is administered by the United Nations Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to assist specialized centres for the rehabilitation of torture victims, in particular refugee victims of torture, such as the Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (Copenhagen, Denmark); Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (London, United Kingdom); Comité médical pour les exilés and Association pour les victimes de la répression en exile (Paris, France); Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (Toronto, Canada); and Center for Victims of Torture (Minneapolis, USA); as well as human rights-oriented non-governmental organizations collaborating closely with medical groups, and other types of institutions and organizations.

NEW GRANTS

At its tenth session, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 17 to 26 April 1991, the Board of Trustees examined information concerning 104 projects, which included analyses of narrative reports, financial reports and audits on the use of grants made in previous years as well as requests for continuing assistance and new projects. Seventy-two new grants from the Fund were approved. Fifty-eight of them represent continuing support for projects approved in the past and 14 concern 11 new projects and sub-projects. The total amount of the recommended grants is US$ 2,238,700 for 1991 and US$ 60,000 for 1992. As in the past, the focus of the Board's recommendations is on supporting programmes providing direct medical, psychological, social or other assistance to torture victims and the members of their families. The Board also recommended that support be given to training pro-

grammes for health professionals on the techniques of treating victims of torture as well as to meetings of health professionals at which they could compare their experience.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Fund can only give aid to torture victims within the limits of the financial resources at its disposal. The needs for aid are considerable. Since the Fund is completely dependent on voluntary contributions from Governments, private organizations, institutions and individuals, any contribution is most welcome. Assistance recommended by the Board for each project per year ranges from US $3,000 to US$ 80,000. *Individuals, organizations and Governments are encouraged to make contributions, in the form of cheques, which should be sent to:* Secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Centre for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Account number A/C C0-5901601, Societé de Banques Suisses.

Human Rights Committee Meets

Disappearances, unlawful executions, including the execution of minors, torture and the existence of political prisoners, the long list of crimes punishable by the death penalty, and the application of cruel and inhuman punishments were among the human rights issues considered by the members of the United Nations Human Rights Committee during its forty-second session held in Geneva, Switzerland from 8 to 26 July 1991.

The 18-member body is charged with monitoring compliance by States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols.

Reports by Iraq, Jordan, Madagascar and Sudan were examined at this session. However, the Committee decided to continue the examination of Iraq's report at its October session, due to lack of time and because Iraq had not answered all the questions brought to its attention. The consideration of Morocco's report was also postponed until the October session.

In a statement to the Committee, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights announced that the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, had entered into force on 11 July 1991. This Protocol states that no one within the jurisdiction of a State party shall be executed and that each State party shall take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty within its jurisdiction.

The forty-third session of the Committee was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 21 October to 8 November 1991. During the session, the Committee continued and finished its consideration of the second periodic report of Morocco and the third periodic report of Iraq, which had been postponed from the previous session. It also considered the second periodic report of Austria and the third periodic reports of Poland and Ecuador.

For further information, contact: International Instruments Section and Communications Section, Centre for Human Rights.

(Editor's note: Fact Sheet No. 15 on Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Commiteee, is now available from the External Relations Section, Centre for Human Rights).

Committee on Rights of the Child Meets

The first session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was held at the Palais des Nations (United Nations), Geneva Switzerland, from 30 September to 18 October 1991. The Committee, composed of ten independent experts, was established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force on 2 September 1990. There were 98 States parties to the Convention as of 18 October 1991, the closing day of the session. The 100th ratification or accession to the Convention was expected shortly thereafter.

During the three-week session, the Committee adopted its provisional rules of procedure and the guidelines for the initial reports to be submitted by States parties, which have been issued as documents CRC/C/4 and CRC/C/5. Among other important topics that were discussed was cooperation between the Committee and the specialized agencies, UNICEF, other United Nations organs and competent bodies. Representatives from over 30 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the Committee's first session.

At the conclusion of its session, the Committee adopted an interim report containing a number of recommendations related to its effective functioning. The second session of the Committee has been tentatively scheduled for 28 September to 9 October 1992 in Geneva.

For further information, contact: International Instruments Section, Centre for Human Rights.

Chairman of African Commission elected

Ambassador Ibrahim Ali Badawi El Sheikh has been elected Chairman of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (Banjul, the Gambia). He follows Prof. U. O. Umozurike of Nigeria and Prof. I. N'Guema of Gabon.

Mr. Badawi is presently Ambassador of Egypt to Zimbabwe. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 1987 to 1990.

New Publications on African Human Rights Issues

The first of a series of occassional papers aimed at addressing a wide variety of issues relating to human rights in Africa is now available from the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies based in Banjul, The Gambia.

Occasional Paper No. 1, by Richard Carver and Paul Hunt, investigates the creation of national human rights institutions in Africa as

Ambassador Kenneth Blackwell, Head of the United States Delegation to the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, presents a check in the amount of $US 388,000 for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, to Mr. Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. Also present is Ms. Charlotte Ponticelli of the U.S. Department of State.

effective mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. It was designed in time for, and distributed to participants at, the International Seminar on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Paris, France from 7 to 9 October 1991 (see also *Human Rights Meetings and Recent Developments*). The seminar was organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights at the invitation of the Government of France in cooperation with the Human Rights Consultative Commission of France.

Occasional Paper No. 2 is entitled *Evidence of Torture in Africa: The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture–A Summary of the Annual Report, 1991*. Written and compiled by Joanna Oyediran and Paul Hunt, this paper is based on the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture's report submitted to the 1991 session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. In addition to providing an introduction to the international law of human rights relating to torture, it summarizes the Rapporteur's report focusing on those elements of particular relevance to Africa and explains how people can contact the Rapporteur and facilitate the information gathering process.

For further information or copies of any of the above, all gratis, contact: African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Kairaba Avenue, K.S.M.D., Banjul, The Gambia.

EVENTS 1991/1992

21 October–1 November 1991–Training course on human rights information and documentation for library staff. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland. Organized jointly by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Library and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and specialized agencies. For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

28 October–1 November 1991–National training course organized by the Centre for Human Rights on International Standards in the Field of Human Rights and National Legislation. Venue: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

28 October–8 November 1991–First meeting of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the question of a draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances. Venue: Geneva. For further information, contact: Legislation Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

11-22 November 1991–United Nations Committee against Torture, Seventh Session. Venue: Geneva. For further information, contact: International Instruments Section, Centre for Human Rights.

25 November–13 December 1991–United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Sixth Session. Venue: Geneva. For further information, contact: International Instruments Section, Centre for Human Rights.

2-13 December 1991–United Nations Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the drafting of a declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. (First pre-sessional meeting of this Working Group to continue the second reading of the draft declaration). Venue: Geneva. For further information, contact: Prevention of Discrimination Section, Centre for Human Rights.

10-13 December 1991–Regional seminar for 10 Latin American countries on human rights, democracy and economic and social development. Venue: Santiago, Chile. Organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Government of Chile. For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

13-17 January 1992–European Conference on international human rights standards. Venue: Barcelona, Spain. Organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the City of Barcelona. Thirty-five members of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were invited to attend. For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

The Centre for Human Rights is the lead agency of the United Nations in the field of human rights. It provides secretariat and substantive services to United Nations bodies concerned with human rights questions, administers the programme of advisory services and technical assistance on human rights, and co-ordinates the relevant activities of the World Campaign for Human Rights within the United Nations system. It ensures liaison with Governments, non-governmental organizations, external institutions and the media, and is responsible for the collection, production and dissemination of human rights publications.

Further information: United Nations Centre for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Telephone: (4122) 734 60 11/731 02 11; telex: 289696; fax: 7339879; cable: UNATIONS, Geneva; or New York Office, Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Headquarters, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA..

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